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REMARKSI. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-15 are pending. Applicants amend claim 1 in this response. Support for the amendment appears in the Title, Background (page 3, lines 8-20), Summary of Invention (page 3, lines 29-31), and Detailed Description (page 14, lines 1-4; page 18, Table 1 results; and page 19, lines 2-6).

II. Telephone Interview

Applicants thank Examiner Lu for telephoning their attorney to discuss a possible amendment in this application. This amendment addresses the Examiner's concerns and is believed to place the case in condition for allowance.

III. Amendment to Claim 1

Applicants have amended claim 1 to require that the hydrosilane be used in an "amount effective to increase polyolefin molecular weight." The application provides numerous references (see section I, above) to the need for ways to increase polyolefin molecular weight and the ability of a hydrosilane additive to achieve this goal with a particular class of indenoindolyl metal complexes. Applicants' examples (Table 1) show that including a hydrosilane additive increases the number average molecular weight (M_n) of a polyolefin by as much as 50% compared with the M_n value obtained without the hydrosilane.

IV. Discussion of Applied References

The amended claims are distinguishable over the cited prior art. Applicants have previously traversed the rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Wang et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,818,713) in view of Meyer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,642,326) and Marks et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,578,690). Wang uses a bridged indenoindolyl complex having open architecture (i.e., the same kind of complex used in Applicants' claimed process) but does not disclose the use of hydrosilanes. Marks teaches that hydrosilane additives decrease the molecular

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weight of polyolefins made using conventional metallocene catalysts; therefore, Marks teaches away from the idea of using hydrosilanes to increase polyolefin molecular weight. Meyer teaches to use a hydrosilane with a boraaryl complex, but only to increase catalyst activity. The hydrosilane has no clear effect on molecular weight in Meyer's system.

In sum, the combined reference teachings would not motivate a skilled person to use a hydrosilane in combination with a bridged indenoindolyl complex having open architecture to make polyolefins with increased molecular weight.

V. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to enter the amendment, withdraw the rejection under Section 103(a), and pass the case to issue. Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone their attorney at (610) 359-2276 if she believes that a discussion of the application might be helpful.

Respectfully submitted,
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May 2, 2005

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